

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

116 Woodstock St. S. PO Box 189 Tavistock ON N0B 2R0

graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com

519-655-2151



'GraceUnitedTavistock'



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www.graceunitedtavistock.com

Blessing to you All!

This month, as we celebrate the achievements of the BIPOC community (black, indigenous, people of colour) I want to remember the words of poet Amanda S Gorman. If you are unsure of who Amanda is – think back to President Biden's inauguration in January 2021.



When she was just 19 years old, Gorman was the first person to be named the National Youth Poet Laureate in 2017. In addition to recognizing the talents of a young generation, the National Youth Poet Laureate program attempts to create spaces for young people to participate in political and cultural conversations of their time. Gorman's writing focuses on issues of oppression, feminism, race, and marginalization. She wowed the world as the youngest ever inaugural poet in the 2021 inauguration, with her poem, "The Hill We Climb." The poem was written as a call for unity and collaboration, and it emphasized the opportunity that the future holds. Many felt that the poem represented a call that would remain relevant beyond the inauguration. Gorman wrote her poem on the eve of the storming and occupation of the US Capital on January 6th. It seems a fitting piece to share today as we have witnessed protests and demonstrations at our own Parliament Hill.

If you want hear Amanda Gorman recite her poem of unity and hope, please click here: [Amanda Gorman reciting her poem](#). Peace, Rev. Gail

When day comes, we ask ourselves, where can we find light in this never-ending shade?

The loss we carry. A sea we must wade.

We braved the belly of the beast.

We've learned that quiet isn't always peace, and the norms and notions of what "just" is isn't always justice.

And yet the dawn is ours before we knew it.

Somehow we do it.

Somehow we weathered and witnessed a nation that isn't broken, but simply unfinished.

We, the successors of a country and a time where a skinny Black girl descended from slaves and raised by a single mother can dream of becoming president, only to find herself reciting for one.

And, yes, we are far from polished, far from pristine, but that doesn't mean we are striving to form a union that is perfect.

We are striving to forge our union with purpose.

To compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and conditions of man.

And so we lift our gaze, not to what stands between us, but what stands before us.

*We close the divide because we know to put our future first, we must first put our differences aside.
We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another.
We seek harm to none and harmony for all.
Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true.
That even as we grieved, we grew.
That even as we hurt, we hoped.
That even as we tired, we tried.
That we'll forever be tied together, victorious.
Not because we will never again know defeat, but because we will never again sow division.
Scripture tells us to envision that everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid.
If we're to live up to our own time, then victory won't lie in the blade, but in all the bridges we've made.
That is the promise to glade, the hill we climb, if only we dare.
It's because being American is more than a pride we inherit.
It's the past we step into and how we repair it.
We've seen a force that would shatter our nation, rather than share it.
Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy.
And this effort very nearly succeeded.
But while democracy can be periodically delayed, it can never be permanently defeated.
In this truth, in this faith we trust, for while we have our eyes on the future, history has its eyes on us.
This is the era of just redemption.
We feared at its inception.
We did not feel prepared to be the heirs of such a terrifying hour.
But within it we found the power to author a new chapter, to offer hope and laughter to ourselves.
So, while once we asked, how could we possibly prevail over catastrophe, now we assert, how could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?
We will not march back to what was, but move to what shall be: a country that is bruised but whole, benevolent but bold,
fierce and free.
We will not be turned around or interrupted by intimidation because we know our inaction and inertia will be the
inheritance of the next generation, become the future.
Our blunders become their burdens.
But one thing is certain.
If we merge mercy with might, and might with right, then love becomes our legacy and change our children's birthright.
So let us leave behind a country better than the one we were left.
Every breath from my bronze-pounded chest, we will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one.
We will rise from the golden hills of the West.
We will rise from the windswept Northeast where our forefathers first realized revolution.
We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the Midwestern states.
We will rise from the sun-baked South.
We will rebuild, reconcile, and recover.
And every known nook of our nation and every corner called our country, our people diverse and beautiful, will emerge
battered and beautiful.
When day comes, we step out of the shade of flame and unafraid.
The new dawn balloons as we free it.
For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it.*

Upcoming Services and Dates:

ALL SERVICES CAN BE VIEWED ON GRACE YOUTUBE CHANNEL, WHICH CAN BE ACCESSED THROUGH OUR WEBSITE:

www.graceunitedtavistock.com

Feb. 20th: 10:30 am Online Service 'Jesus the Shepherd'
Guest Leader Susan Humphrey

11:30 am Zoom Coffee and Connect

Feb. 22nd: 8:30 am Cooking Food for Friends Ministry

Feb. 23rd: 2:00 pm Community Pick Up Food for Friends Ministry

Feb. 26th: 4:30 - 7:00 pm 'Coldest Night of the Year' Walk

Feb. 27th: 10:30 am Online service 'Change of Transfiguration' led by the Worship Team

11:30 am Zoom Coffee and Connect

Mar 2nd: 10:00 - 11:30 am Sit n' Knit Stay n' Crochet - Knox Parlour

Mar. 3rd: 7:00 pm Re-Opening Committee Meeting - Zoom

Mar. 6th 10:30 am In person Worship: Lent 1 - Who is Jesus: Presence?

Mar. 7th: 7:00 pm Lent Bible Study - Zoom

Mar. 8th: 2:00 pm Lent Bible Study - Knox Parlour

7:00 pm Session Meeting - Zion Hall



Coffee and Conversation

We will host Zoom coffee and conversations on Sunday at 11.30-12.15.

Pour your drink of choice and join us on line. To connect, click on the zoom link below. If you have trouble connecting, contact Carol Young 519 301 1356

February 20th: Click link to join coffee and conversation: [Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 818 4046 2614 Passcode: 447778



Contact us

Rev. Gail Fricker: cell number 519-703-1954

gfricker@rogers.com

Carol Young: cell number 519-301-1356

tavigraceyouth@gmail.com

Office Email: graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com

E-transfer donation email: gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com

Office Hours

Rev. Gail Tues to Thurs 10:00—3:00 pm

Katherine Brenneman Tues. and Thurs. 9:30 – 12:30 pm

Care and Communication Team

Rev. Gail 519 703 1954

Jean Lowe 519 655 3205

Marcia Bender 519 655 2047

Marianne Ruby 519 274 1422

Elizabeth Halliday 519 655 2246

Mary Ann Krantz 519 272 4072

Rev. Gail is away on vacation Feb 19th – Feb 27th inclusive. For pastoral care please contact a member of the Care and Communication Team. For emergency pastoral care, please contact Rev Keith Reynolds from Avondale United; his cell is 226-880-3539.

Katherine is on vacation Feb 24—Mar 2 so there will be no newsletter next week.

Do you have a prayer request?

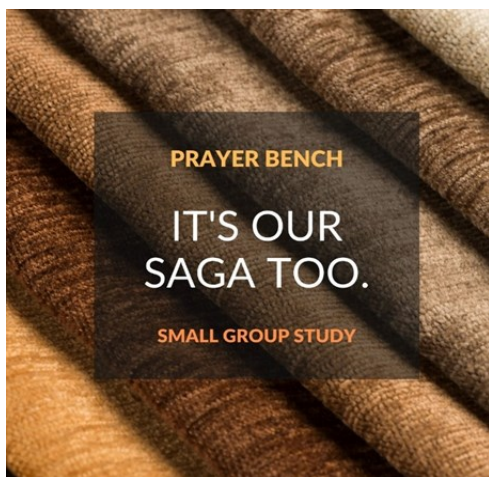
"In all things let your requests be known to God in prayer." (Philippians 4:6)

Grace has a group of wonderful and dedicated people that form a prayer chain. If you, or anyone you know is in need of prayer, please reach out to our Minister, Rev. Gail, or to the chair of Grace PCO, Bev Neeb, and we will begin praying for you.



- ◇ Pray for Norma Kaufman as she continues to recuperate at St. Marys Memorial Hospital
- ◇ Pray for Ivy Francis as she continues to recuperate at home

Join me to Journey in Lent



This five-week Lent Small Group Study weaves the saga of Joseph with the journey of Jesus to the cross. Using readings from Genesis and Luke, it invites us to reflect on the related life themes of violence, grief, challenges, and forgiveness. Each session will have a short audio recording, a scripture to reflect on, a time of discussion, and a group spiritual practice. The 5 week study will be offered both on in person on Tuesday afternoons 2-.3.30 (starting 6th March), and on zoom on Monday evenings 7-.8.30 (starting 7th March).

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 867 8400 0470 Passcode: 289202

The link for the annual slide show of events, celebrations, honourings from 2021 has been posted to YouTube. It's an unlisted video to protect our church family, especially our vulnerable members. You will not find it by searching on the church's YouTube channel. You can share it with close family and friends if you wish but please do not make it public.

<https://youtu.be/S2k-fBP8b5s>



Feb. 26th "Coldest Night of the Year" Initiative.

'The Graceful Walkers' now have 9 members on our team – Paul Bartlett, Mary Ann Krantz, Blair Yeomans, Carol and Wayne Shewfelt, Elizabeth Halliday, Tory Zehr, Joanne Bean, and Rev. Gail. Graceful Walkers have surpassed their goal and have currently raised \$3640. Thank you to everyone for their generosity. There is still time to donate if you wish!



Check out how the "Graceful Walkers" are doing by going on the internet to:

[Graceful Walkers Team Page.](#)

Grace's "Creative in COVID" AUCTION UPDATE!

The Auction is all ready to view on line! To view the items, just click on this link:

<https://www.32auctions.com/GraceUnited>, and follow the prompts to create a login page. A full list and pictures of items are also attached to the weekly email.

The bidding will begin at 8.00am on Friday March 4th, and end at midnight on Saturday March 12th. If you place any bid, you will be notified if you get outbid and asked if you wish you place another bid.

Items will be displayed at church on Sunday March 6th in Zion Hall for viewing and bidding after church (for those that can not bid online.)

All bidding will be online, but if you do not have access to internet, then you can call or text in your bid by phoning/texting Rev. Gail (519 703 1954) and she will place your bid for you, and keep you posted if you get overbid. All winners will make their payment through the church - NOT online.

Please spread the word by sending the link to all your friends – and have some fun!

Note: baking items are made to order. Other food items will be available after March 12th.



BID • ONLINE AUCTION

**Sharing
our
Creative
Gifts**

AUCTION OPENS

FRIDAY, MARCH 4TH @ 9 AM

AUCTION CLOSES

FRIDAY, MARCH 11TH @ MIDNIGHT

baking / artwork/ home decor / gift cards
charcuterie boards / puzzles / handmade items

WWW.32AUCTIONS.COM/GRACEUNITED

Step Into Story!

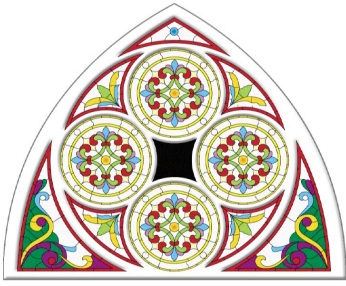
Have you ever wanted to learn to tell a good story? If so, join Rev. Gail as she teaches a 4-part online course through Five Oaks on Thursday evenings, starting March 10th. It will be a fun and interactive course, and no previous experience of storytelling is necessary. It will be great for anyone who just wants to try their hand at storytelling.

To find out more, or to register before March 8th, just click on this link:

[Five Oaks Step into Story: Using Folktales](#)



Update from Grace Official Board



At the board meeting this week, two decisions were made about re-opening Grace United Church. As of March 1st, the building will be open to meetings and gatherings for up to 50 people. In-person services will commence Sunday, March 6th. Masking is still required. All our decisions are based upon guidance from South West Public Health and the government of Ontario.

Because of these many quickly changing protocols, the planned survey to our community of faith will be delayed. We value your input and thoughts and if you wish to discuss this further, please be in touch with either Rev Gail or myself.

Camp Bimini will be celebrating 75 years of ministry with youth and children this year. As a cabin sponsor we have some responsibilities for the cabin, including spring cleaning each year, ensuring curtains and windows are present and in good condition and ensuring that the interior is painted regularly. Most of the cabins are in need of a fresh coat of paint outside as well but this large task happens only about every ten years.

At the January board meeting, a motion was passed that Grace commits to fundraising with the youth group to cover the cost of paint and to provide labour to help with the painting. As you will understand the timeline for this to happen is dependent on our spring weather. We expressed our gratitude to Bimini for giving us lots of time to organize fundraising events and find folk for the 2-3 days of work by 2-3 people with 2-3 gallons of paint recommended by Bimini. The outside task will likely require 1-2 days of scraping and painting and the probable cost for paint will be about \$750. I know that to several members, like myself, Bimini is a very special and wonderful place that provides peace and comfort, a safe place for youth and children to experience spiritual learning and growth and a special spot to hold church services and meetings. I have confidence that you will willingly help with the fundraising and work asked of our community of faith as Bimini celebrates the continuing vision of a few folk many years ago. Our fun fundraiser will take place during Lent and information for your participation will be sent soon.

Anne Gregory, Board Chair

Together in Spirit: Medicine Ties

*Stories and teachings of how tobacco ties are used to enhance relationship. Learn how and why tobacco ties are made. **Thursday, February 24, 2022, 7:00-8:30 PM on Zoom** (Conference call available for those who do not have video)*



Tobacco is a spiritual medicine in Indigenous tradition, and is offered when making a request

for assistance or wisdom.

Join with ***Ishkoodeh Kwe Sheila Robson***, Neyaashinigming, Cape Croker United Church and ***Joyce Johnston, Minister***, Neyaashiinigmiing, Cape Croker United Church

as they guide us through the traditional wisdom and practices of making and giving tobacco ties.

If you wish to make a tobacco tie during this session, bring a piece of broadcloth or another type of cloth, scissors and tobacco. Thin ribbon is optional.

Register in advance for *Together in Spirit: Medicine Ties*

<https://united-church.zoom.us/join/joinMeetingUrl>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Registration costs covered by Antler River Watershed, Horseshoe Falls and Western Ontario Waterways Regional Councils. For more information, contact Thérèse Samuel
tsamuel@united-church.ca.

Mini Monthly Financial Report

Month of

JANUARY

	2021	2022
Anniversary	0	0
Core Receipts	7,973	4,146
Other Donations	0	0
Misc. Receipts		
Fundraising	0	0
Funeral Donations	30	0
Manse Rental	875	875
CEBA loan	20,000	0
Misc.	762	35
Total Receipts	29,640	5,056
Expenses	12,307	8,953
Surplus/Deficit	17,333	-3,897